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Moving forward: PollinERA progress in 2026



Welcome to the summer edition of PollinERA's bi-annual newsletter! We are happy to share the project highlights from the past few months and keep you informed about our upcoming initiatives. From new publications to engaging events and collaborations, this newsletter brings together all our latest activities.

In this newsletter, you will find:

- Publications overview
- Events overview
- New on social media
- Synergies
- Updates from EU pollinator projects



Publications overview

Researchers highlight risks in the EU Commission’s draft legislation on pesticides

Scientists from 27 European research institutions point out that the “Food and Feed Safety simplification package” weakens key safeguards in the approval process.

Read more

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HOME>SCIENCE>FIRST RELEASE>EU OMNIBUS PROPOSAL INCREASES PESTICIDE RISKS

POLICY FORUM

EU Omnibus proposal increases pesticide risks

More efficient environmental risk assessment and stronger protection are achievable

EMILY WINTERMANTL, GENIVA KASSE, LARGELY HENRIK VILFRAND, JESSICA KNAAPP, ANHVA JAYNES, TOM D. BREES, MARK J. F. BROWN, CARSTEN A. BRÖD, AUSTINE DENIELLE 1-4, AND JULIA OSTERMAN +25 authors

Authors info & affiliations

SCIENCE

18 Jun 2025

First Release

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The European Union (EU) has one of the most comprehensive systems for risk assessment of pesticides. However, pesticides continue to cause ecological damage and pose risks to human health (1). Additionally, regulatory assessments are often delayed, slowing the market entry of new substances (2). To address such delays and simplify procedures and requirements for pesticide marketing, the European Commission proposed an “Omnibus Simplification package” on food and feed safety on 16 December 2025. Here, we explain how implementing the Omnibus package would amplify rather than resolve shortcomings of current environmental risk assessment. This would jeopardize the Omnibus’s goal to maintain high standards for the protection of human and environmental health, as well as the EU’s long-term environmental objectives and international commitments to restore ecosystems. We provide actionable recommendations for improving environmental risk assessment for stronger biodiversity protection while limiting regulatory burden.

Preprint (16 June 2026) forthcoming in *Advances in Pollinator Research*.

Joint White Paper from Horizon Europe-funded projects Butterfly, VALOR, PollinERA, WildPosh, AGRI4POL, ProPollSoil, RestPoll, and Safeguard

Towards pollinator stewardship in all policies

Policy incoherence in the EU is a major barrier to pollinator restoration

Jeroen P. van der Sluis, Noa Simon Delas, Johan Axelmann, Ignasi Bartomeus, Tom Brees, Scott Bremer, Florence L.P. Damens, Michal Filipiak, Nicola Gallai, Georgios Klefthodimos, Alexandra-Maria Klein, Jessica Knaapp, Nicolas Langlade, Sara Diana Leonhardt, Julia Leverton, Xushan Li, Denis Michez, Minella Miettinen, Henning Notzeböck, May-Britt Ohman Nielsen, Jeff Ollerton, Julia Osterman, Simon Potts, Claus Rasmussen, Sara Revent, Michael Schöder, Henrik C. Smith, Ingrid Steffan-Dewenter, Martin Thorpe, Christopher John Topping, Simone Toai, Kevin Tougeron, Luisa M. Trindade, Zafarani Uvingabire, Adam J. Vanbergen, George Vontzos, James Williams, Emory Wintermantel, Jie Zhang and 96 signatories. (See Appendix 1 for author affiliations and signatories.)

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Citation: van der Sluis, J.P., Simon Delas, N., Axelmann, J., Bartomeus, I., Brees, T., Bremer, S., Damens, F.L.P., Filipiak, M., Gallai, N., Klefthodimos, G., Klein, A.M., Knaapp, J., Langlade, N., Leonhardt, S.D., Leverton, J., Li, X., Michez, D., Miettinen, M., Notzeböck, H., Ohman Nielsen, M.-B., Ollerton, J., Osterman, J., Potts, S., Rasmussen, C., Revent, S., Schöder, M., Smith, H.C., Steffan-Dewenter, I., Thorpe, M., Topping, C.J., Toai, S., Tougeron, K., Trindade, L.M., Uvingabire, Z., Vanbergen, A.J., Vontzos, G., Williams, J., Wintermantel, E., Zhang, J. and 96 signatories (in press) Towards pollinator stewardship in all policies. Policy incoherence in the EU is a major barrier to pollinator restoration. Joint White Paper from Horizon Europe-funded projects Butterfly, VALOR, PollinERA, WildPosh, AGRI4POL, ProPollSoil, RestPoll, and Safeguard. *Advances in Pollinator Research*.

DOI of pre-print: 10.5281/zenodo.20775670 (all versions: 10.5281/zenodo.20775669)

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Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the EU nor REA can be held responsible for them.

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Europe risks a crisis if it fails to halt pollinator loss, researchers warn

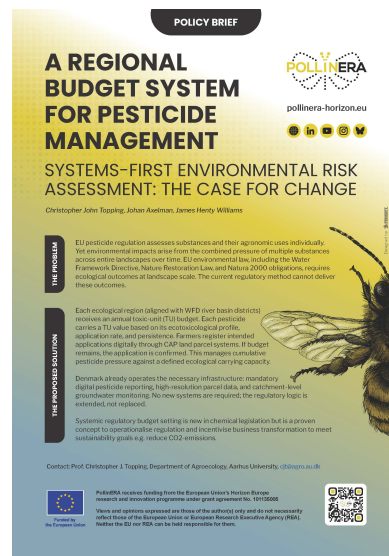
Eight EU-funded research consortia warn that Europe risks a crisis and propose a roadmap to reverse the decline of wild pollinators and protect managed bees.

Read more

PollinERA's new policy brief

The new policy brief proposes a regional budget system for pesticide management in Europe. It outlines a systems-based approach for managing cumulative pesticide impacts across European landscapes.

[Full policy brief](#)



Paper in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*

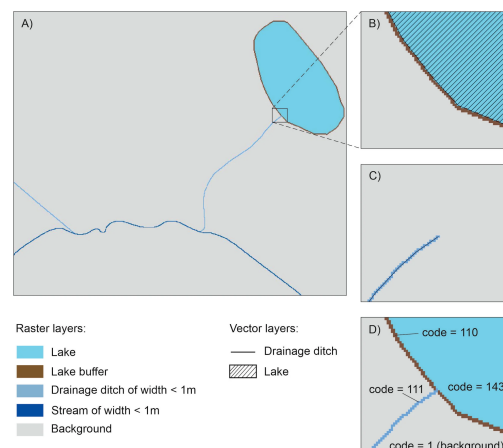
PollinERA has released a new scientific publication, which examines key limitations in how chemical safety is currently assessed and regulated.

[Read more](#)

New paper on developing a representation of agricultural landscapes for ALMaSS

This publication provides a detailed methodology for generating spatial and temporal landscape representations for simulations in ALMaSS.

[Read more](#)





Four PollinERA project deliverables available in RIO

If you want to read more about the project's deliverables, four of them are already online in the outcomes collection in the Research Ideas and Outcomes (RIO) journal.

[Read more](#)



Events overview



Highlights from PollinERA's AGM in Lund, Sweden

The second PollinERA project annual general meeting was held from 10 to 12 March 2026 in Lund, Sweden, hosted and organised by project partner Lund University. The project partners discussed the project's progress, shared updates and decided on its future course of action.

They also visited laboratories at Lund University and Kiviks Musteri Biodiversity Park, one of Sweden's largest apple producers.

[Learn more](#)

PollinERA presented at the 3rd International Crop Modelling Symposium

The project coordinator, Prof. Christopher John Topping, presented PollinERA to the international audience of researchers working on crop modelling, agricultural systems and food security.



[Learn more](#)



New on social media

We continue with the social media campaign #PollinERAexplained that focuses on explaining complex topics explored within the project:



#PollinERAexplained is an ongoing campaign.

Stay tuned for the next episodes!



Other synergies



Four projects for pollinator protection were presented at a thematic EFSA-KIC meeting

The [PollinERA](#), PollinEat, [ProPollSoil](#), and [WildPosh](#) projects were introduced to nearly 140 participants, including policymakers and researchers. The shared aim of these projects is to advance ERA for pollinators.

[Learn more](#)

Recognised by the European Research Executive Agency (REA)

As part of PollinERA's first annual meeting on Tuesday, 18 March 2025, the project held an open session to present some of its achievements to date. Hybrid event focused on advancing Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) for pollinators.

[Learn more](#)



Improving our understanding of the risks of pesticides to pollinators



Speaker
MAJ RUNDLÖF



Speaker
JULIA OSTERMAN



In case you missed it: WildPosh and PollinERA research pushes for broader risk assessment

The PollinERA project partner, Docent Maj Rundlöf from [Lund University](#) and the WildPosh project partner, PhD Julia Osterman from the [University of Gothenburg](#), gave a joint presentation on improving our understanding of the risks of pesticides to pollinators.

[Learn more](#)



Updates from EU pollinator projects



ANTENNA Biodiversity Forecasting Challenge

The ANTENNA project challenges you through its special web application, which puts human ecological intuition head-to-head with state-of-the-art machine learning. Try to predict the future abundance of those species!

Try it out!

The first newsletter of the Butterfly Project is here

The project aims to enhance society's capacity to appraise, foresee and respond to the threats posed by the cascading impacts of pollinator decline.

Subscribe now



AGRI4POL & HelEx launch gift box, turning research into tangible sustainability

The video that unveiled the product collection "Made From Sunflower", bridges genetic research and real-world agricultural practice.

Watch the video here

The WildPosh project introduces its young scientists

Dive into the new WildPosh campaign and meet the young researchers working to understand and protect wild pollinators across Europe!

[Find the scientists here](#)



Stay connected

Stay connected with PollinERA for real-time updates, insights, and event announcements.



**Funded by
the European Union**

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